

Scrutiny Committee

Since the last report to Full Council, Scrutiny Committee met on 2nd August 2016 and considered the following items:

Response to Scrutiny Questions to the Leader

The Scrutiny Committee discussed the responses provided by the Leader of Council to their questions raised regarding information on the newly created Boards.

Reports to be considered by District Executive on 4 August 2016

The Scrutiny Committee considered the reports included in the District Executive agenda for 4 August 2016 and made the following comments:

Approval of South Somerset District Council's Contaminated Land Inspection Strategy

Member's sought reassurance that the reputational risk to the Authority of adopting a more reactive than pro-active approach is adequately managed.

Draft Asset Management Plan 2016/17

Whilst members acknowledged that the report stated there would need to be some flexibility to manage the limited resources available in the delivery of the Asset Management Plan, Scrutiny Committee members feel it is important that workloads are monitored.

Members were pleased to note the clarification given by the Leader that the cessation of the SASG would not affect the democratic decision making processes already in place.

Update on the Equality Objective Action Plan

Members were pleased to note that their concerns relating to Community Safety Actions had now been addressed.

2016/17 Revenue Budget Monitoring Report

Members sought clarification about the ANPR Car Parking arrangements and why this project was running behind schedule. They were grateful to the Finance Manager for providing some clarification about the contract negotiation process and hope the issues can be resolved as soon as possible.

Members asked that progress towards achieving the Transformation Programme savings are made explicitly clear in budget monitoring reports and it was agreed that this information would be shown as a separate reporting line in the future.

2016/17 Capital Programme Monitoring Report

Members commented on the fact that a move away from Home Improvement Grants to loans had had an adverse effect on the number of applications. They were pleased to note the Leader's comments that a revised procedure for administering the loans would be coming before members shortly.

Confidential session – Westlands Leisure Complex

This item was discussed in confidential session.

Verbal update on Task and Finish reviews

Members were updated on the progress of the Task and Finish Groups currently underway:

- Council Tax Reduction Review 2017
- Discretionary Housing Payments
- Consent to Dispose of Housing Stock / Local Connections Allocation Policy
- NNDR
- Voluntary Council for Somerset
- Street Trading
- Devolution
- Rural Services Access to Health Scrutiny Exercise

Councillor Sue Steele
Chairman of Scrutiny Committee